



# Bureau of Land Management

UTAH  
NEWS

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## *Post-Wildfire Rehabilitation Efforts Taking Place*

**Salt Lake City, UT-** Last summer the Big Pole fire was the biggest fire of the season, making resource specialists concerned about damage to soil, watershed and vegetation. The specialists developed steps to prevent further damage on affected areas. As the snowpack starts to melt, soil scientists, botanists and wildlife biologists have started to assess the speed and extent of recovery in the burned areas. Initial observations reflect positive results.

“The damage doesn’t end when the wildfire stops,” said BLM West Desert District Manager Glenn Carpenter. “Mud and floods were an immediate threat following the extreme severity of Big Pole. Now we’re entering a season where we can measure results through monitoring efforts.”

Immediately following the wildfire, ranchers, public land managers, and regional cooperatives like the Utah Partners in Conservation and Development took swift action to minimize erosion by creating check dams in drainages, building water bars and using felled trees to slow water runoff. Throughout the winter, native seed species mixture was deposited over the burned area in an effort to out-compete non-native plants and invasive weeds. Allowing vegetation to grow and thrive will be critical for recovery, land managers will continue to monitor to ensure rehabilitation plans are encouraging desirable plant growth.

For more information on wildfire rehabilitation, [www.utahfireinfo.gov](http://www.utahfireinfo.gov).

### **-BLM-**

The BLM manages more land - 253 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.